

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

By way of the foregoing, Claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 18 have been amended, Claim 16 has been canceled, and new independent Claim 21 is presented for consideration. Thus, the claims currently pending in this application are Claims 1-15 and 17-21, with Claims 1, 18 and 21 being the only independent claims.

The Official Action sets forth an anticipatory rejection of independent Claims 1 and 8 on the basis of the disclosure contained in U.S. Patent No. 6,102,453 to *Cetnar*. It is understood from the Official Action that the disclosure in *Cetnar* is interpreted such that the releasing arm 110 corresponds to the claimed open link, the members 162, 168, 170, 172, 194 collectively correspond to the claimed swing lever, the motor 144 corresponds to the claimed electric driving source, the worm gear 148 corresponds to the claimed gear member, and the sector gear member 152 correspond to the claimed rotary gear member.

Understanding that the Examiner believes one could interpret the disclosure in *Cetnar* so that it could be said to include features corresponding to those recited in independent Claims 1 and 18, those claims has been reworded to better highlight differences between the claimed door lock system and the disclosure contained in *Cetnar*. Thus, independent Claim 1 has been amended to define the inside lever previously recited in dependent Claim 4. Claim 1 recites that the inside lever is positioned parallel to the

open link and is movable into and out of engagement with the open link. This arrangement can provide advantages such as discussed in paragraph 0051 of the application.

Addressing the claimed inside lever previously set forth in dependent Claim 4, the Official Action observes that the bell crank 68 and the releasing arm 76 described in *Cetnar* correspond to the inside lever. The Official Action also observes that the bell crank 68 and the outer releasing arm 76 are engageable with the open link 110 because they are both connected to the same pivot pin 70. For purposes of clarification, it is to be noted that the releasing arm 76 is not mounted on the pivot pin 70, but rather is mounted on the pivot pin 74. The outer releasing arm 76 is akin to the releasing arm 110. In addition, even considering that the bell crank 68 is mounted on the pivot pin 70, that mounting does not cause the bell crank 68 to be engageable with the releasing arm 110.

In any event, to negate the interpretation set forth in the Official Action, Claim 1 defines that the inside lever is movable into and out of engagement with the open link. Quite clearly, the bell crank 68 (and/or the releasing arm 76) is not movable into and out of engagement with the releasing arm 110. It is thus submitted that Claim 1 and the dependent claims are patentably distinguishable over the disclosure contained in *Cetnar*.

Independent Claim 18 has been amended to define the inside lever that is adapted to be operated through operation of the door handle so that the inside lever moves into engagement with the open link upon operation of the door handle to move the open link and moves out of engagement with the open link upon release of the door handle. The bell crank 68 (and/or the releasing arm 76) disclosed in *Cetnar* is not configured to move into

engagement with the releasing arm 110 upon operation of the door handle to move the releasing arm 110 and to move out of engagement with the releasing arm 110 upon release of the door handle. It is thus submitted that the door lock system defined in independent Claim 18, as well as the various dependent claims, is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure contained in *Cetnar*.

Newly presented independent Claim 21 is similar to originally presented independent Claim 18, and additionally recites the movable inside lever that is adapted to be operatively connected to a door handle so that the inside lever moves in response to operation of the door handle. Claim 21 recites that a part of the inside lever is engageable with an engaging portion of the open link when the open link is in the unlocked position so that movement of the inside lever resulting from operation of the door handle causes the open link to contact the unitarily rotatable element that rotates unitarily with the pawl. Claim 21 also recites that the part of the inside lever is unable to engage the engaging portion of the open link when the open link is in the unlocked position so that movement of the inside lever resulting from operation of the door handle does not cause the open link to contact the unitarily rotatable element associated with the pawl. This arrangement differs from the disclosure contained in *Cetnar* because with the door locking system disclosed in *Cetnar*, the movement of the bell crank 68 always causes movement of the associated releasing arm. In light of at least this distinction, independent Claim 21 is patentably distinguishable over the disclosure contained in *Cetnar*.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

As a final point, the Examiner's attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on September 19, 2002. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider and make of record the documents cited in that Information Disclosure Statement.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment to Amendment dated December 9, 2002

Mark-up of Claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 18

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1. (Amended) A door lock system for a vehicle comprising:
 - a latch mechanism adapted to a vehicle door and latching the vehicle door to a vehicle body;
 - an open link engagable and disengagable with the latch mechanism;
 - a swing lever connected to the open link;
 - an inside lever positioned parallel to the open link and movable into and out of engagement with the open link;
 - an electric driving source having a gear member; and
 - a rotary gear member arranged between the swing lever and the electric driving source to be meshed with the gear member of the electric driving source, the rotary gear member being directly and engagably connected to the swing lever.

4. (Amended) A door lock system for a vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising:
 - an opening lever perpendicularly arranged relative to the open link [and rotatably supporting the open link; and
 - an inside lever arranged in parallel with the open link and being engagable with the open link].

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7. (Amended) A door lock system for a vehicle according to claim 2, further comprising:

an opening lever perpendicularly arranged relative to the open link [and rotatably supporting the open link; and

an inside lever arranged in parallel with the open link and being engagable with the open link].

8. (Amended) A door lock system for a vehicle according to claim 3, further comprising:

an opening lever perpendicularly arranged relative to the open link [and rotatably supporting the open link; and

an inside lever arranged in parallel with the open link and being engagable with the open link].

9. (Amended) A door lock system for a vehicle according to claim 6, further comprising:

an opening lever perpendicularly arranged relative to the open link [and rotatably supporting the open link; and

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Mark-up of Claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 18

an inside lever arranged in parallel with the open link and being engagable with the open link].

18. (Amended) A door lock system for a vehicle comprising:

a rotatable latch including a latch groove for receiving a striker of a vehicle body;

a rotatable pawl adapted to contact the latch to prevent rotation of the latch; including a unitarily rotatable element that rotates unitarily with the pawl;

an open link adapted to contact the unitarily rotatable element to rotate the unitarily rotatable element and the pawl so that the pawl is moved out of contact with the latch;

a swing lever connected to the open link;

an inside lever adapted to be operated through operation of a door handle so that the inside lever moves into engagement with the open link upon operation of the door handle to move the open link and moves out of engagement with the open link upon release of the door handle;

an electric driving source having a gear member; and

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Mark-up of Claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 18

a rotary gear member arranged between the swing lever and the electric driving source and in meshing engagement with the gear member of the electric driving source, the rotary gear member being directly connected to the swing lever.